



A happy customer models a dog hair coat and mittens knit by Carolyn Smith of Creature Comforts, using hair from her German Shepherd.

GET SOME EXTRA VALUE OUT OF YOUR FAVORITE DOG OR CAT

She Makes Clothing Out Of Pet Hair

If you've got a dog or cat that sheds hair faster than you can sneeze, you might want to contact Carolyn Smith.

The Vashon Island, Wash., resident is one of a growing number of weavers who are cleaning up in the pet hair clothing business.

"People come to me with dog hair and ask to have it turned into a piece of clothing, a wall hanging, or some other object," Smith, who's been knitting dog hair for 15 years, told FARM SHOW.

Another weaver Nancy Papp, Santa Fe, N.M., recently told the *Wall Street Journal* one of her most popular items is a dog hair bomber jacket priced at \$1,000 and up.

Smith says her most popular items are

Cardigan sweaters, ranging in price from \$350 to \$450 for machine-knit and \$650 and up for hand-knit.

"I can knit a likeness of the pet into a garment using its different color hair," she says. "To do so, I ask for a photo of the pet, then enlarge it on a copy machine, and transfer it onto the pattern with knitting graph paper."

Smith has also worked with chinchilla, wolf and cat hair. Wolf hair is relatively easy to knit, while cat hair is difficult because it mats easily, she notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Creature Comforts, P.O. Box 606, Vashon Island, Wash. 98070 (ph 206 463-2004).



Dennis Dotson with his company's fully-restored Little Giant "B" tractor. There are only four or five of the tractors, built from 1914 to 1923, left in the world.

MADE BY SMALL MIDWEST MANUFACTURER

Perfectly Restored Little Giant "B"

If you've never heard of Little Giant tractors, you're probably not alone. They were produced around the time of World War I in Mankato, Minn.

Now, 73 years after the last Little Giant rolled off the assembly line, one has been restored to mint condition.

"It's the only fully restored Little Giant

as far as we know," Dennis Dotson of the Dotson Co. told FARM SHOW. "There are only four or five others in existence in the world, including one we've heard about in New Zealand."

Five hundred Little Giant B's, along with their bigger brothers the A's, were manufactured between 1914 and 1923, at which



A small breed, Blackbellies prefer to graze weeds and underbrush instead of grass.

"THE ULTIMATE MOWING MACHINE"

Blackbelly Barbados Sheep

Blackbelly Barbados sheep have been around the U.S. for a long time, but interest in the breed has been renewed thanks to a Newalla, Okla., farmer who's putting together a new purebred registry.

"One ram and four ewes were first brought into Texas from Barbados in 1904," says Charlie Beam, co-founder of the recently formed Blackbelly Barbados Sheep Association USA. "There are thousands of them still in this country but few - if any - are purebred Blackbellies anymore. We're hoping to identify any that are, as well as some of the crosses."

Meantime, Beam, who has 27 Blackbellies, says there are plenty of reasons to raise these small sheep named for their native country and the black hair on their bellies.

One reason is that they're fantastic "mowing machines" capable of cleaning weeds and brush out of pastures in no time. When grazing large tracts of land, the sheep prefer weeds and underbrush to grass, Beam says.

Blackbellies are a small breed, with adult producing ewes generally weighing only about 90 lbs. and rams 125 lbs.

Because they're a meat sheep with hair - not wool - they never need shearing or tail-docking, he says.

They're also exceptionally prolific, he adds. Ewes breed early enough to lamb at



A day-old, spring-born Blackbelly lamb.

13 months and are capable of lambing every 7 1/2 to 8 months. They'll produce twins, triplets, even quadruplets, after their second lambing.

Blackbellies produce a mild meat that many people prefer over other lamb or mutton.

Three-year-old rams with good curl on their horns sell for around \$150, while 1-year-old ewes sell for \$55 to \$65, Beam says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Blackbelly Barbados Sheep Association USA, Spurlock & Beam Farm, 18412 E. Indian Hill Rd., Newalla, Okla. 74857 (ph 405 360-5187).

time the line was discontinued.

Dotson's Little Giant B weighs 5,200 lbs. and has a 22 hp engine. It originally was sold for \$2,200 in January 1919 to N.N. Dinnen & Co. Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba. Little is known of the tractor until the early 1960's when it surfaced on a farm in Fessenden, N. Dak.

Dotson bought the tractor at an auction in 1987 and set out to find experts to restore it. The project was just recently completed.

"The tractor was really advanced in some respects, like enclosed gearing, spring-cushioned drawbar, and coil spring suspension front and rear," says Frank DePuydt who, along with brothers Mark, Tom and Kevin, did the mechanical work. "But there were oddities, too. For example, the front of the tractor is very 'busy'. The governor, a flyball type driven by a shaft, is there and the

magneto is on the opposite front corner. The pump is mounted down low at the front, as is the drive for the cast aluminum fan. The belt pulley is located on front too."

The biggest problem with the 4-cyl. engine was that a wrist pin keeper fell out of the number three cylinder, wearing a deep groove in the cylinder, he continued. The men fixed this and several other problems and eventually got the old engine purring again.

Al Anderson, an Eagle Lake, Minn., antique tractor enthusiast, did the body work. The job required fabricating new fenders and decals, plus new Y-shaped cleats for the wheels.

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